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5. (Seven Times Amended) The [A] device according to claim 4, [wherein] 2 further comprising, in addition to said four arms, a fifth and a sixth [is added one pair of successive] movable arms positioned adjacent each other along said support part so that said device could be used as a vertical helping hand, said fifth and sixth [these last] arms each being provided with a respective said [substantially] elastic buffer, and wherein the contact faces of the elastic buffers of the fifth and sixth arms [buffers which are turned by their contact] face [oppositely] in opposite directions.

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6. (Six Times Amended) The [A] device according to claim 2, [wherein] further comprising in addition to said two arms, [are added successively] two pairs of movable arms disposed in succession along said support part so that said device could be used as a horizontal helping hand, the [those] pairs of movable arms being [furthermore turnable] rotatable around said support part in [into] at least two directions, and each of said two arms and said movable arms having one said [substantially] elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from said support part. and wherein the arms of each of said pairs of movable arms can be positioned so that the contact face of the buffer of one [any] arm [for each of said two pairs could have its contact face facing] faces the contact face of the buffer of the other arm of the same pair.

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7. (Five Times Amended) The [A] device according to claim 2, [wherein] further comprising a removable stop fitted onto at least one end of said support part, said [is fitted out with a] removable stop comprising [which is made of] a section of tubular supple sheath which frictionally engages with the outer surface of [and slipped onto] said support part [by a gentle forcing].

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8. (Four Times Amended) The [A] device according to claim 2, [wherein the support part has secured thereto] further comprising a coupler secured to the support part, said coupler holding [which supports] another support part such that said another support part extends in a [at least one] direction distinct from that of the first said support part, said another support part including [carrying] at least one movable arm provided with a said [at least one substantially] elastic buffer.

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9. (Six Times Amended) The [A] device according to claim 2, [wherein the support part has secured thereto] further comprising a coupler secured to the support part. said coupler holding [which holds] other support parts parallel to the first [said] support part, each of said other support parts carrying at least two arms, of which at least one is movable, and of which one is provided with one said [substantially] elastic buffer.

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10. (Five Times Amended) The [A] device according to claim 2, [wherein the support part has secured thereto] further comprising a coupler secured to the support part. said coupler holding [which holds] another support part in a [one] direction distinct from that of the first [said] support part, said another support part including a second coupler and [carrying] at least one movable arm provided with [a] one said [substantially] elastic buffer [and another coupler].

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11. (Twice Amended) The [A] device according to claim 2, wherein the support part is made of several beams which [with] are connected end to end in a row by couplers, each of the outermost beams supporting at least one of said two arms.

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12. (Three Times Amended) The [A] device according to claim 2, wherein said [the] support part comprises [is made of] several parallel beams which are disposed through respective transverse holes in said arms, said transverse holes being distributed in a line which is at a right angle to said arms [so that no said substantially elastic buffer could be aligned with any two of those beams].

13. (Three Times Amended) The [A] device according to claim 12, wherein at least one said [substantially] elastic buffer is split up into several pieces [so that no one of said pieces could be aligned with any two of those beams].

14. (Three Times Amended) The [A] device according to claim 13, wherein the arm upon which is secured the split up [said substantially] elastic buffer is itself split up into several blocks each carried by one or several of said beams.

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15. (Four Times Amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein said at least one movable arm comprises [is made of] two portions firmly secured to [extending] each other, a first portion including said transverse hole in which said support part is disposed and another portion carrying said elastic buffer.

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16. (Three Times Amended) A method for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, and which utilizes a device including a cylindrical support part and two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning said object between said arms;

applying said elastic buffer against a respective surface of said object,

manually exerting pressure on the backs of said arms to clamp said object between said arms and

stopping the exertion of pressure when said at least one movable arm is tilted with respect to said support part, such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of

~~17. (Twice Amended)~~ said at least one movable arm, thereby locking said arm in place with respect to said support part.

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17. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm, said at least one movable arm having a said [substantially] elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the another support part and a transverse hole through which said another support part is fitted [carrying said at least one movable arm, said buffer having under its contact face, which is approximately at a right angle to said support part, a thickness large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring], said method [for holding objects by clamping without any risk at all of damaging,] further comprising the steps of:

[d] applying the [every said substantially] elastic buffer of the at least one movable arm supported on said another support part against a respective [some resistant] surface of said object,

[e] manually exerting pressure on the back of said at least one movable arm supported on said another support part [arms a manual thrust], and

[f] stopping the exertion of pressure when said at least one movable arm supported on said another support part is tilted with respect to said another [this thrust so as to lock each of those movable arms by tilting against their own] support part, such that a frictional force is created between said another support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm secured thereto, thereby locking said at least one movable arm in place with respect to said another support part.

18. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm and another coupler, said at least one movable arm having a said [substantially] elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the another support part and a transverse hole through which said another support part is fitted [carrying said at least one movable arm, said buffer having under its contact face, which is approximately at a right angle to said support part, a thickness large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring], said method [for holding objects by clamping without any risk at all of damaging,] further comprising the steps of

[d] applying the [every said substantially] elastic buffer of the at least one movable arm supported on said another support part against a respective [some resistant] surface of said object,

[e] manually exerting pressure on the back of said at least one movable arm supported on said another support part [arms a manual thrust], and

[f] stopping the exertion of pressure when said at least one movable arm supported on said another support part is tilted with respect to said another [this thrust so as to lock each of those movable arms by tilting against their own]

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support part, such that a frictional force is created between said another support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm secured thereto. thereby locking said at least one movable arm in place with respect to said another support part.